

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00

OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ERDE-00 /089 W

-----131643Z 103469 /47

P R 131522Z MAY 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2129

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0226

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: MAY 12 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

REF: MBFR VIENNA 216

AT THE FIRST PLENARY MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ROUND OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS MAY 12, NETHERLANDS REP (DEVOS) AND GDR REP (OESER) WERE THE ONLY SPEAKERS. THE NETHERLANDS STATEMENT WAS REPORTED REFTEL. IN HIS PRESENTATION, GDR REP REPEATED THE CASE FOR THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH IN STANDARD TERMS AND MADE A LOW KEY REFERENCE TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO EXCHANGE ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS NATIONAL MILITARY MANPOWER DATA FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT. HE INDICATED THAT THE EAST'S PROPOSED EQUAL

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PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS WOULD BE BASED ON SUCH NATIONAL TOTALS. OESER ALSO APPEARED TO REFER OBLIQUELY TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL ADVANCED IN THE TENTH ROUND THAT PARTICIPANTS DEVELOP A LIST OF AGREED POINTS. THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF GDR REP'S STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1) THE AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE PREPARATORY TALKS AND ARE

FRUITS OF THE PROCESS OF THE RELAXATION OF TENSIONS. PARTICIPANTS SHOULD FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THESE BASIC DOCUMENTS.

2) THE WARSAW PACT NATIONS AFFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO ACT ON THESE PRINCIPLES IN THEIR DECLARATION ISSUED AT BUCHAREST IN NOVEMBER 1976 WHERE THEY ALSO CALLED UPON ALL CSCE PARTICIPANTS TO RENOUNCE THE FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

3) THE DESIRE OF EASTERN PARTICIPANTS FOR PROGRESS WAS FURTHER MANIFESTED IN THEIR COMPROMISE PROPOSAL OF FEBRUARY 1976 AND IN THEIR PROPOSAL TO FREEZE MILITARY MANPOWER LEVELS FOR THE DURATION OF THE TALKS BASED ON OFFICIAL DATA.

4) THE REFUSAL OF WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO ACCEPT THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL TESTIFIES TO THEIR DESIRE TO FURTHER INCREASE THEIR ARMED FORCES.

5) IN THE NEW ROUND, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS SHOULD MAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION CONSISTENT WITH THE STATEMENTS OF WESTERN LEADERS SUPPORTING PROGRESS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

6) TO CONFORM WITH AGREED PRINCIPLES, ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST CONTRIBUTE EQUIVALENTLY TO REDUCTIONS, AND REDUCTIONS MUST BE TAKEN BY UNITS WITH ARMAMENTS AND INCLUDE AIR AND NUCLEAR ELEMENTS.

7) THE REFUSAL OF WESTERN PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES TO GIVE COMMITMENTS AS TO THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF THEIR REDUCTIONS HINDERS PROGRESS IN THESE TALKS; SUCH COMMITMENTS ARE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE AGREEMENT THAT

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FIRST PHASE REDUCTINS BE CONFINED TO US AND SOVIET FORCES.

8) EASTERN PROPOSALS, WHICH ARE AIMED AT REDUCING THE HIGH CONCENTRATION OF ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE WITHOUT DISTURBING THE EXISTING BALANCED RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES, DO NOT TREAT THE REDUCTION AREA IN A VACUUM.

9 WESTERN ARGUMENTS BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHIC FACTOR ARE ARBITRARY, IGNORE SUCH WESTERN ADVANTAGES AS GREATER POPULATION AND THE PROXIMITY OF VERY MODERN WESTERN FORCES TO THE BORDERS OF THE USSR, AND DIVERT THE TALKS INTO UNPRODUCTIVE CHANNELS.

10) ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD REDUCE BY EQUAL PERCENTAGES AS WELL AS BY UNITS AS ONLY SUCH REDUCTIONS WOULD BE EFFECTIVE.

11) AIR AND NUCLEAR UNITS MUST ALSO BE REDUCED; WESTERN ATTEMPTS TO LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING SUCH FORCE ELEMENTS

ARE CONTRARY TO THE AGREED TASK OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

12) IN THIS ROUND, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS SHOULD COOPERATE
IN WORKING OUT POINTS OF AGREEMENT WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE AGREED
BASIS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

13) WESTERN PARTICIPANTS SHOULD NO LONGER REFER TO
NUMERICAL DISPARITIES IN MILITARY MANPOWER SINCE THE OFFICIAL
DATA TABLED BY BOTH SIDES OBJECTIVELY CONFIRMS THE EXISTENCE
OF APPROXIMATE EQUALITY.

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

14) ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD REDUCE THEIR
FORCES BY EQUAL PERCENTAGES BASED ON FIGURES OFFICIALLY
PRESENTED BY THEM IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

15) THE EAST REPEATS ITS READINESS TO PROVIDE NATIONAL
MANPOWER DATA RECIPROCALLY ON THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SO THAT WESTERN PARTICIPANTS CAN
CORRECT THEIR ERRONEOUS ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING THE
NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF WARSAW PACT FORCES.

16) THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS SHOULD GIVE UP THEIR
OPPOSITION TO THE EAST'S JUST AND EFFECTIVE APPROACH
TO REDUCTIONS AND EMBARK ON THE PATH OF COMPROMISE
IN RESPONSE TO CONSTRUCTIVE EASTERN PROPOSALS. RESOR
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Message Attributes

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